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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 1963  
TO: The Vice President  
FROM: Colonel Burris  
RE: Latin American Policy

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State Dept 11/16/70  
By AMG, NARS, Date 6/19/77

The attached Rusk policy statement on Cuban policy is a reasonably comprehensive expression of Latin American policy. In fact, it will satisfy your request for a summary statement of U. S. activities and actions in regard to the Cuban problem.

Additionally two or three other actions are within the realm of possibility. Mr. McNamara has some of them under study. They are in the military field and the principal one relates to the establishment of a military body associated with the Organization of American States and operating somewhat in the fashion of NATO. Each state would make contributions to this hemispheric defense arrangement in accordance with its particular capability. That is, some states would contribute Naval units, others ground forces, and others transport. The United States would necessarily contribute most of the airlift.

To begin with, Naval patrols would be established to secure the Latin American waters and to inhibit the export of Communist agents and materiel from Cuba. Further along, specific armed forces units would be earmarked for commitment to any portion of the hemisphere where their employment might be required, and as the OAS determined.

This development of military cooperation along these lines seems to be the principal means for augmenting efforts towards security in the hemisphere.

On the political and economic side, the development of the Alliance for Progress still offers the greatest possibilities for success. However, much remains to be done if this program is to become effective.

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